Searching Effectively on the World Wide Web

Search tools include:

Search engines

Web subject directory

Metasearch engines

The Invisible Web (also known as the “deep web”

Comparison of different search tools: Search Engines

Definition

Databases that contain millions of pages

Automated software (“robots” or “spiders”) scan the Internet and collect Information.

The search engine interface allows you to search for certain words or phrases found on web pages.

In a search engine you are searching for information within that search engines only not the entire WWW.

Advantages: Search engines contain millions of web pages.

You retrieve results that match the words that you are looking for.

Can be useful for searching for unique or specific topics.

Disadvanteges

Depending on the search engine you may get thousands or millions of results

Many of the results may not be exactly what you are looking for, especially if you are using broad or common terms.

Web subject directories

Definition

A collection of web sites gathered by the creators of the directory or submitted by publishers of web site.

People evaluate and classify the web sites that are placed in the dictionary.

Advantages

There may be a higher degree of accuracy using web dictionaries for researching broad subjects or topics.

Disadvanteges

Usually fewer web sites than a search engine.

Web directories may not be as useful as search engines for researching specific or obscure topics

Metasearch engines

Definition

Similar to search engines but are used to search more than one search engine at a time.

Some metasearch engines will also show you a small number of the “best” web sites from each search engine based on criteria established by the metasearch engine.

Advantages You can search several search engines at one time.

Disadvantages

You may retrieve inappropriate web sites depending on how each individual search engines interprets the search.

Invisible web

Hidden from general public

Also known as the deep web

Includes specialized databases and directories.

Can be useful for specific topics or terms

The invisible web will not be located by the use of conventional search engine and directories. You must know the URL or search using a search tool specifically created for searchi8ng parts of the invisible web.

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